

CMAQ Project Selection Committee

October 28, 2003

Meeting Agreements

1. The five-month extension of TEA-21 provides approximately \$39.2 million for CMAQ projects in northeastern Illinois. IDOT will allow the full amount to be obligated. At this time, no restrictions will be placed on sponsors' ability to obligate project funds.
2. An eligibility determination was received for the FY 2004 CMAQ program. Letters notifying sponsors were sent out Friday, October 24th.
3. Follow-up responses were received from all but one CMAQ project. No projects were making such poor progress as to warrant Committee action.
4. Staff will continue monitoring the Des Plaines River Trail from IL 64 to Maybrook Ct project (TIP ID 04-97-0015). Staff distributed the District's design alternatives to the Committee.
5. The Committee approved the transfer of funds from 93rd St Station – MED South Chicago Branch Station Relocation/Parking (TIP ID 18-99-1528) to Hegewisch Station Commuter Parking – South Shore Line (TIP ID 18-99-0551) and Pingree Rd Station – UP-NW (TIP ID 18-95-0004).
6. The Committee approved the draft FY 2005 CMAQ program development schedule, with the change that the public comment period will begin July 30, 2004, following release by the Work Program Committee.
7. Staff proposed changes to the FY 2005 CMAQ instruction book regarding scoping documents, calculation of emissions benefits, and trip length were approved.
8. Staff proposed changes to the instruction book regarding demonstrations were adopted, with these changes:
 - “congestion mitigation” will be added to the evaluation plan description.
 - The evaluation plan description will be changed to clarify that the project will need to be evaluated if it is programmed.
 - A project title box will be added to the application form.
9. Staff proposed changes to the instruction book regarding expenses incurred before a project is begun were adopted with the following addition:
 - Language will be added clarifying that the commitment of funds is between the project sponsor and the contractor carrying out the work.
10. Staff proposed changes to the instruction book regarding increases after a contract is awarded were adopted with the following change:

- Language will be added concerning additional funding for “phased” contracts.
11. The proposed updating of bicycle/pedestrian trip rate, diversion, and trip length factors was approved.
 12. The proposed revisions to the Commuter Parking evaluation method were approved
 13. The proposed enhancements to the emissions rate tables were approved
 14. Staff will investigate better ways to quantify time savings as an evaluation criterion.
 15. The letter to STPP regarding their “Clearing the Air” report will be sent, with the additions of:
 - citation of specific innovative projects in the region that have taken a longer time to complete.
 - The fact that obligation rates increase as time goes by, so that the ISTEA program years have very high obligation rates.
 16. The next meeting will be on call.

The above summary is based on staff meeting notes. Anyone who takes exception to the information contained in this summary should forward comments to Ross Patronsky at (312) 793-3474 within one week of the submission date noted below.

Summary submitted by Ross Patronsky November 4, 2003.